

AFTER 60 years as an Isthmian club, Wycombe Wanderers could find themselves playing in a new league at the start of the 1982/3 season if a radical plan, announced last week reaches fruition.

The new competition, with the rather cumbersome name of the Semi-Professional Football League (South), was set in motion following agreement between the Isthmian and Southern leagues. However, these two leagues will retain their separate identities.

First local reaction to the new competition, which will comprise between 22 and 24 clubs, was favourable.

Battle

Wycombe secretary John Goldsworthy commented: "The new competition will give us a change. The fans would like to see us play other clubs like Weymouth. It will change our targets and objectives."

The scheme, which met with quick agreement from both parties, follows on

quickly from the Premier Alliance League's approach to the Isthmian clubs.

It appears to be a battle for power between the Alliance and the Isthmian in a bid to meet the FA's known wish to form a pyramid structure for non-league football.

Mr Goldsworthy explains why the agreement between the Isthmian and the Southern was so hasty. "The Alliance's invitation to Isthmians really got us off our backsides. We decided to produce a plan ourselves and it was agreed to by the Southern, who were up to then a feeder for the Alliance."

The whole scheme has yet to receive the FA's ratification, and the exact details

are not finalised, but it is possible to give an outline of the plan.

The Isthmian and Southern Leagues will each feed clubs into the new competition with the greater number coming from the Isthmian which is both the stronger and bigger league.

Attractive

There will be a curious method of relegation with the two lowest placed Isthmian and Southern clubs, irrespective of their positions, returning to their respective leagues.

They will make way for the champions and runners-up of the Isthmian, and the win-

ners of the South and Midland Divisions of the Southern League. The geographical area of the league will not extend beyond present Southern League boundaries.

This is seen as a far more attractive option than the Alliance's plan because it cuts down travelling costs.

It is also intended that only the champions of the new competition will be put forward for direct entry to the Football League.

With the Isthmians agreeing to link up with the Athenians and the Southern also having talks with the Hellenic and Western Leagues, regarding a feeder system, the football pyramid is steadily being reached.

Jimmy goes —Scott stays

CHRISTMAS has brought a change of circumstance for three Wycombe Wanderers players — Jimmy Richardson, Terry Scott and Paul Miles.

Richardson, a utility defender who signed on at the start of the season is going to Norway next week to play full-time football in the Norwegian League.

During his stay at Loakes Park, Richardson played only a handful of first team games and at one stage went on a one month's loan to Harrow Borough. He originally signed from Fulham and wishes to return to the full-time ranks.

The complicated situation regarding Scott was resolved this week, and he is now free to play for either Wycombe team for the rest of the season.

Scott has not played a game for the senior side since leaving last summer for the United States, where he played some lower league football.

Miles leaves

This gifted forward returned about a month ago but at first he and Mike Keen could not come to agreement as to his return to the States next summer. The club have now allowed him to do so provided he plays for Wanderers next season.

The Blues have got a really strong squad of forwards at present but one of them Paul Miles is leaving.

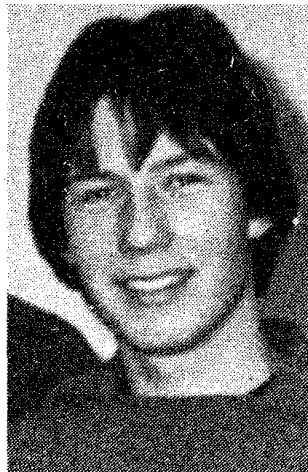
Miles, who has been unable to retain a regular place in the side since the signing of Terry Glynn and the return of Gary Toll, cannot now play on Saturday because of work.

An estate agent by profession, Miles is still free to play the occasional game for the reserves. Last season Miles signed as an apprentice from Reading and scored some useful goals including a hat-trick against Hayes.

Wycombe are building up some strength in depth. Tony Price, Scott, Ken Wilson and Andy Hunt will all be fighting to get into the first team forward line. So there is plenty of competition.

Wanderers are not so well provided for in defence although the recent signings of Simon Dexter from Thame and Phil Bycroft from Abingdon improves the situation.

Meanwhile the Blues hope to be at full strength for their crucial derby match at home to Slough Town on Saturday.



PAUL MILES

... Saturday work



TERRY SCOTT

... agreement